

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02143 150931Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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R 150910Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T TAIPEI 2143

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TW
SUBJECT: ROC INTEREST IN PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSELS

REF: (A) STATE 058904, (B) 76 TAIPEI 1511, (C) 76 STATE
046680, (D) MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION DATED NOVEMBER
18, 1976, SUBJECT GRUMMAN PROJECTS IN THE ROC

1. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, HERBERT P. MOSCA, JR., DIRECTOR,
FAR EAST PROGRAMS, GRUMMAN INTERNATIONAL, INC., CALLED AT
THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 11, 1977, AND HAD A BRIEF CHAT WITH
POLITICAL-MILITARY OFFICER REGARDING GRUMMAN HYDROFOIL. MOSCA
CONFIRMED INFORMATION IN REFTELS BUT HAD NOTHING NEW TO ADD.
ON MARCH 14, 1977, MOSCA CALLED POLITICAL OFFICER BY LONG
DISTANCE TELEPHONE FROM TOKYO AND SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD
SOON BE RECEIVING A QUERY (REF A) FROM STATE DEPARTMENT ON
SUBJECT OF HYDROFOIL. ON MARCH 30, 1977, MOSCA AGAIN CALLED
POLITICAL OFFICER AND STATED THAT MND IS QUOTE CONSIDERING
SENDING A SURVEY TEAM TO THE U.S. TO SEE THE GRUMMAN HYDROFOIL
UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS DID NOT
COME TO PASS.

2. DURING THE PAST FOUR WEEKS MOSCA AND/OR GRUMMAN EXECUTIVE
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VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ HAVE MADE THREE CALLS AT MAAG.
ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO RODRIGUEZ CALLED ON ROC CHIEF OF THE
GENERAL STAFF ADM. SOONG CHANG-CHIH, AND SINCE THEN GRUMMAN
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EITHER VISITED OR CALLED THE CHIEF OF
THE BUREAU OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS, ROC NAVY, REAR ADM. LIANG
CHUN-TSENG, AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF FOR
PLANNING, MND, VICE ADM. LIU HO-CHIEN.

3. DESPITE ALL OF THE FOREGOING ACTIVITY, WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THE ROC IS ONLY INTERESTED IN A HYDROFOIL PLATFORM IF AN INTEGRAL MEDIUM-RANGE (25 NM) SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE, SUCH AS THE HARPOON, IS INCLUDED. WITHOUT RELEASE OF THE HARPOON, THE ROC'S INTEREST IS LIMITED TO THE COLLECTION OF HYDROFOIL DATA. THE INTENSIVE MAINTENANCE REQUIRED AND HIGH PRICE TURN THE ROC AWAY FROM HYDROFOILS AND ANOTHER TYPE BOAT (NON-HYDROFOIL) MAY BE CHOSEN EVEN IF THE HARPOON BECOMES AVAILABLE. ALTHOUGH MOSCA TOLD POL OFFICER THAT GRUMMAN HAS QUOTE AN AGREEMENT TO AGREE UNQUOTE WITH CHINA SHIPBUILDING CORPORATION ON CO-PRODUCTION OF HYDROFOILS SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ROC HAS NO INTENTION OF CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH GRUMMAN AT THIS TIME.
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